

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

In cooperation with
Cotton Economic Research and
Bureau of Business Research of
The University of Texas at Austin

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-41

ITUDE 29° 19' N
LONGITUDE 100° 24' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 1120 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1936-1970

Month	Temperature (°F) #								** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)								Mean number of days					Month
	Means			Extremes						Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet					Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures				
																			Max.		Min.		
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest Depth	Year	90° and above		32° and below	32° and below	0° and below		
(a)	13	13	13	13		13		14	35	35		35	35		15		15	14	14	14	14		
Jan	61.6	36.3	49.0	84	1963	4	1962	493	0.93	1.90	1968	0.2	4.0	1940	0	1966	2	0	*	11	0	Jan	
Feb	66.1	39.7	52.9	94	1959	17	1960	342	1.15	5.15	1949	0.2	5.0	1966	4		3	*	0	6	0	Feb	
Mar	73.2	47.2	60.2	97	1967	20	1965	192	0.90	1.78	1958	T	T	1947	0		2	1	0	2	0	Mar	
Apr	83.0	58.3	70.7	102	1963	35	1961	31	1.92	4.00	1969	0	0		0		2	5	0	0	0	Apr	
May	87.4	64.7	76.1	104	1966	45	1970	3	2.90	4.76	1957	0	0		0		4	11	0	0	0	May	
Jun	93.5	70.1	81.8	109	1960	50	1970	0	2.97	5.32	1948	0	0		0		3	25	0	0	0	Jun	
Jul	97.1	72.7	84.9	109	1960	62	1968	0	1.51	5.92	1938	0	0		0		1	30	0	0	0	Jul	
Aug	96.7	71.8	84.3	107	1969	63	1965	0	1.86	3.05	1960+	0	0		0		2	29	0	0	0	Aug	
Sep	90.6	67.7	79.2	103	1957	45	1967	2	2.99	6.00	1955	0	0		0		4	19	0	0	0	Sep	
Oct	81.2	56.6	68.9	99	1960	34	1970	35	2.10	5.80	1951	0	0		0		3	4	0	0	0	Oct	
Nov	71.3	45.6	58.5	91	1967	22	1970+	209	0.81	2.15	1969	T	T	1957	0		2	*	0	3	0	Nov	
Dec	64.2	39.2	51.7	84	1958	17	1966	415	0.90	1.65	1937	0	0		0		2	0	0	9	0	Dec	
Year	80.5	55.8	68.2	109	July 1960+	4	Jan. 1962	1722	20.94	6.00	Sept. 1955	0.4	5.0	Feb. 1966	4	Feb. 1966	30	124	*	31	0	Year	

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

** Base 65°F

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

For the period 1957 - 1970

THE CLIMATE OF BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

Brackettville, located 32 miles east of Del Rio, on U.S. 90, is the county seat of Kinney County, and serves as a trade center for a large ranching area. Also, it serves as hunting headquarters for deer, wild turkey, javelina and upland game birds. More recently Brackettville has become a tourist center.

Alamo Village, one of the largest and most complete movie sets ever constructed in the United States, the set for John Wayne's "The Alamo," has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Texas. Visitors may see frontier lawmen and desperados shoot it out on the streets, and may ride a genuine stagecoach. Alamo Village is located six miles north of Brackettville on R.M. 674.

Located immediately south of Brackettville on S.H. 131, is Fort Clark, one of the most historic military posts in the Southwest. It was established on June 19, 1852. Over the years, a great many infantry regiments and almost all of the Army's cavalry units were stationed at Fort Clark at some time. It served through World War II, and was de-activated in 1946. Today the fort is a privately owned guest ranch featuring swimming, horseback riding and planned activities.

The economy of Kinney County is based on agribusiness and tourism. Sheep and goat ranching are the chief agricultural enterprises. Cattle, and hunting leases bring in additional revenue. Approximately 10,000 acres are irrigated for vegetables and other crops.

Brackettville has a subtropical steppe climate with low summer humidity. Rainfall records (for Fort Clark) date back to 1852. In the 54-year period 1877-1930, the average annual rainfall at Brackettville was 21.71 inches, while in the 35-year period 1936-1970, it is 20.94 inches—a rather small change in the means for an area where large annual variations do occur. For example, the total 1958 rainfall (45.37 inches) was more than twice the annual average, and nearly six times the amount that fell during the drought year, 1956 (7.58 inches). Rains occur most frequently as the result of thunderstorm activity with maximum amounts usually occurring in the May-June and September-October periods. More than three-fourths of the total annual rainfall, in an average

year, occurs during the warm season, April through October. Rainfall amounts drop off sharply as the fall season progresses from October into November. It is unusual for an entire month to pass without some measurable precipitation, although the amount may be small. The driest period of record occurred during the winter of 1917-1918, when only .03 inch fell in the six-month period, October-March. The wettest month on record is December 1857. A total of 23.02 inches fell during this month which is, of course, more than the average rainfall for an entire year.

While Brackettville enjoys seasonal temperature changes, its geographical location results in a milder winter climate than areas to the north and east. Cold fronts move down through the area during the late fall, winter and early spring, but the most severe weather usually passes off to the east through Central and East Texas. Most of these cold fronts undergo considerable modification by the time they reach Brackettville.

The prevailing winds are from the southeast throughout all seasons of the year. Average wind velocity is less than in most sections of Texas, being generally below 10 miles-per-hour.

Relative humidity, at noon Central Standard Time, is estimated at 55 percent in January, 52 percent in April, 47 percent in July and 55 percent in October. In an average year, the area receives 58 percent of the total possible sunshine in winter, 67 percent in spring, 77 percent in summer and 70 percent in fall. Free water (lake) evaporation exceeds precipitation by about 56 inches annually.

Brackettville enjoys a long warm season (freeze free period) which averages 270 days. The mean dates of the last occurrence of 32°F or below in the spring, and the first occurrence of 32°F in the fall are March 1 and November 26, respectively.

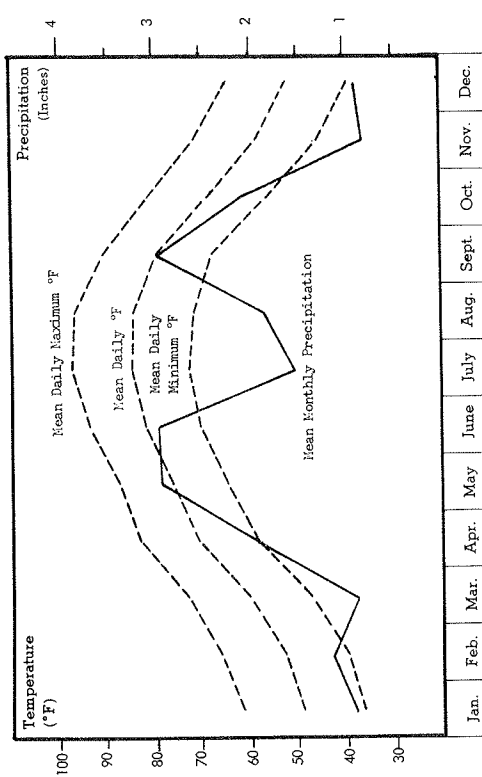
The spring and fall seasons are the most pleasant at Brackettville. In this semi-arid region, evaporative type home air conditioners are effective for cooling about 90 percent of the time during July and August. Automotive air conditioning is recommended for travel May through September.

BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1936	0.28	0.01	1.54	0.32	5.02	5.00	1.54	1.75	3.95	2.10	0.49	0.34	22.34
1937	0.30	0.05	0.72	0.05	1.61	1.12	1.72	1.01	2.10	0.88	2.65	4.64	16.85
1938	1.53	0.39	0.63	0.33	1.23	0.19	11.00	0.78	0.13	0	0.14	0.66	19.97
1939	1.78	0.10	0.91	0.37	3.02	0.96	3.88	1.62	1.10	1.85	1.43	1.36	18.38
1940	0.48	1.32	0.90	2.09	5.68	3.38	1.24	3.45	4.57	1.21	1.24	1.08	22.43
1941	1.05	1.01	2.35	2.75	1.40	0.92	5.37	0.43	4.57	1.21	0.21	0.25	21.52
1942	0.30	1.28	0.07	3.09	3.96	0.58	2.50	6.24	1.74	0.40	0.55	0.30	21.01
1943	0.16	0.04	0.56	2.94	4.85	2.01	-	0.62	6.79	1.06	2.15	2.21	24.76
1944	1.64	1.69	1.45	0.74	3.62	4.80	0.53	3.72	2.59	1.74	0.85	1.39	24.76
1945	1.32	1.33	1.19	1.23	1.72	1.73	0.11	1.41	1.88	3.51	0	0.26	15.69
1946	1.81	0.80	0.48	2.49	6.26	1.96	0.67	0.28	1.09	1.56	0.32	1.38	19.10
1947	2.79	0.47	1.14	3.01	2.18	5.31	-	4.13	0.75	1.10	1.09	0.45	-
1948	-	1.01	0.06	2.01	-	9.58	0.75	1.31	3.87	0.76	0.59	0.08	-
1949	2.48	8.14	0.68	1.87	0.75	5.09	0.86	3.40	2.09	4.25	0	1.71	31.32
1950	0.15	1.38	0	0.85	2.40	2.67	2.84	2.00	5.30	0.08	0.03	0	17.70
1951	0.01	0.13	2.29	0.13	2.86	1.57	0	0.25	0.75	5.96	0.10	0.66	14.71
1952	0.22	0.58	0.59	1.63	3.41	1.02	1.08	0.18	0.33	0	1.23	1.99	12.26
1953	0.18	0.25	1.36	0	0.23	0.40	0.20	4.53	1.71	0.74	0	0.52	10.12
1954	0.34	0	0	2.12	3.78	6.06	0.48	1.36	1.22	4.02	0	0	19.38
1955	0.56	0.63	0.96	0.03	3.67	4.70	3.74	3.49	6.84	0.19	1.47	0.27	26.55
1956	0.17	0.25	0	0.10	0.06	0	0.40	1.09	0	4.91	0	0.43	7.58
1957	0.21	1.36	1.62	7.88	10.08	1.90	0.04	0.03	4.91	6.21	1.77	2.12	34.21
1958	3.36	3.28	2.66	0.63	3.67	11.30	0.35	1.81	11.31	6.21	4.48	0.31	45.37
1959	0.35	0.84	0.02	3.08	5.03	6.75	1.67	0.75	4.28	2.17	1.73	0.84	27.51
1960	0.54	1.70	1.20	0.80	0.50	0.28	1.87	4.39	0.39	4.63	0.20	2.62	19.12
1961	1.87	0.71	0.15	0.57	0.75	7.85	3.91	0.97	0.13	0.55	0.19	0.26	17.91
1962	0.15	0.27	0.49	1.83	1.65	3.16	0	0.43	0.52	1.63	0.47	0.27	10.87
1963	0	0.99	0	1.63	2.13	2.05	0.10	0	1.61	3.95	0.88	0.79	15.07
1964	1.54	0.82	1.40	1.21	2.64	0	0.41	1.46	9.53	1.31	0.05	0.38	20.75
1965	0.46	1.81	0.72	2.93	5.33	2.75	0.34	2.52	2.69	0.45	0.73	0	21.48
1966	0.93	1.51	1.28	6.47	2.09	2.42	0	4.54	1.75	4.01	1.44	0.65	21.95
1967	0.04	0.26	1.22	3.02	0	2.60	0.97	1.04	6.67	2.11	2.59	1.42	17.26
1968	3.15	1.39	1.43	0.79	1.19	1.33	0.68	0.03	2.54	5.17	4.46	1.53	28.53
1969	0.82	0.86	0.48	4.61	2.50	0.90	0	1.20	6.90	0.50	0	0	16.50
1970	0.80	2.70	1.00	0	2.50	0	0	2.70	6.90	0.50	0	0	16.50

Temperatures and Precipitation



BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1957	49.8	52.1	56.8	67.8	73.7	83.4	85.1	87.4	80.0	68.4	56.8	55.6	68.1
1958	49.2	54.6	60.8	66.8	77.7	82.5	83.2	84.6	81.9	70.4	54.1	-	-
1959	51.9	50.1	57.6	71.3	77.8	84.8	84.4	-	79.4	74.0	60.6	48.1	-
1960	47.6	55.9	66.3	69.9	78.6	81.2	85.5	85.7	80.9	75.2	60.0	52.2	69.4
1961	44.9	51.8	66.1	74.5	75.6	82.4	83.9	85.7	79.9	71.8	59.2	43.8	68.3
1962	44.9	51.8	66.1	74.5	75.6	82.4	83.9	85.7	79.9	71.8	59.2	43.8	68.3
1963	44.9	51.8	66.1	74.5	75.6	82.4	83.9	85.7	79.9	71.8	59.2	43.8	68.3
1964	47.6	48.7	56.2	71.5	76.7	80.1	83.8	82.8	80.1	67.3	64.4	55.0	68.2
1965	45.9	51.4	62.5	71.9	74.9	79.6	85.9	82.4	75.5	67.3	63.7	51.0	68.0
1966	50.3	53.0	68.0	75.8	78.2	83.7	85.8	82.4	75.5	67.6	59.4	50.8	69.2
1967	48.2	51.2	57.8	69.1	76.6	81.2	83.8	85.8	76.2	71.4	58.0	-	-
1968	55.7	55.6	70.7	74.9	83.0	87.4	85.8	85.8	79.5	69.0	55.7	54.4	68.8
1969	53.6	55.7	55.3	69.5	73.0	80.4	84.5	84.5	78.2	66.7	56.0	55.6	-
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

STATION HISTORY

Temperature and rainfall observations began at Fort Clark, one mile southwest of Brackettville, in August 1852. Observations continued at Fort Clark through February 1931. Although there are some missing data in these early years, records are nearly complete beginning with May 1901. The station at Fort Clark was closed in February 1931, and a rain gage only was installed at Brackettville on April 15, 1935. The gage was mounted on top of a building, 18 feet above ground. On April 15, 1953 the rain gage was moved to a ground exposure, 0.35 mile north-northwest of the previous site, and 0.5 mile northwest of the Brackettville Post Office. Temperature equipment was added on March 27, 1957. On July 31, 1957 the station was relocated to a site at the Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, 1400 feet south of the Post Office. Station 1951, moved to the City Hall, 800 feet south-southwest of the Post Office. Station equipment consists of a maximum-minimum thermometer, standard 8-inch, non-recording rain gage, and maximum and minimum thermometers. Daily temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in Climatological Data-Texas. Station index number: 41-1007-06.

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